

PRESS RELEASE



The Cleveland Museum of Art

Public Relations / 11150 East Blvd. / Cleveland, Ohio 44106 / 216 421-7340

September 22, 1982

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART RECEIVES \$500,000 CHALLENGE GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS

The National Endowment for the Arts has awarded The Cleveland Museum of Art a \$500,000 Challenge Grant. This is the Museum's first Challenge Grant. During the next three years the Museum must raise \$3.50 for every \$1 authorized by NEA-- a total of \$1.75 million in matching funds to meet the terms of the challenge.

The Cleveland Museum of Art will apply these funds toward a \$6.5 million campaign for the construction of a new library, new galleries, the renovation of existing space for conservation, and an endowment to operate the additional facilities. The new addition, the Museum's third in its 66-year history, doubles the capacity of the Museum's renowned research library; provides nine new galleries; and expands and modernizes the conservation laboratories.

"The Art Museum's determined efforts to maintain the excellence of its collections and activities are evident in this third addition. The new building is not large, but it is essential to maintain the quality of the work we do, in the display, care, and study of the works of art entrusted to us," says Museum director Sherman E. Lee. He continues, "NEA's recognition of our past achievements and future potential is a welcome and gratifying challenge."

The original Museum building, designed by Hubbell & Benes, opened to the public in 1916; an addition of 115,000 square feet, which nearly doubled gallery space for the growing collection, was designed by Hays and Ruth and dedicated in 1958. In 1970, a 110,000 square foot Education Wing designed by Marcel Breuer and Hamilton Smith, was added. Ground was broken on July 19, 1982, for the third addition, 33,650 square feet on three floors. The architect, Peter van Dijk, partner in charge of design for Dalton, van Dijk, Johnson & Partners, and the

(more)

2-nea challenge grant

R.P. Carbone Construction Company, expect to complete construction at the west side of the present building overlooking Liberty Boulevard by summer 1983.

Two of the three floors will house the entire Museum library, almost 400,000 slides and photographs and 110,000 books and periodicals to which about 4500 books are added each year. The top floor will add nine galleries to the west wing of the Museum, enlarging by 7,100 square feet the gallery space available for works by European and American artists of the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. The 11,925 square feet of vacated library space will be renovated for the particular needs of the Museum's Conservation Department. All of these improvements enable the Museum to do the work that is central to an art museum: to display, care for, and study the works of art it collects. The half million visitors who come to the Museum each year will enjoy the benefits of these much needed facilities.

Costs for the new addition are \$3 million for construction; \$1 million for fittings, furnishings, and renovation; and another \$2 million in endowment to generate the necessary annual maintenance costs.

James H. Dempsey, Jr., President of the Museum Board of Trustees, has appointed two trustees, George Oliva, Jr., and Mrs. Edward A. Kilroy, Jr., to chair the committee which will raise the \$6.5 million required for the project.

In addition, Museum trustees have established the Museum's first office of Development and Membership to provide staff support in this and future fund-raising campaigns. James Szubski, who heads the new department, for ten years held a similar position with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

Tom E. Hinson, curator of contemporary art at the Museum, whose undergraduate degree is in architectural studies, is working with Museum trustees, the architect and contractor, and the Museum's Office of Development and Membership to coordinate the steady progress of construction.

For additional information, please contact the Public Relations Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.